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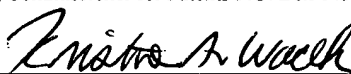
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HAMMOND JR. ET AL. Examiner: G. PAUMEN  
Serial No.: 10/783,529 Group Art Unit: 2833  
Filed: FEBRUARY 20, 2004 Docket: 2316.1891US01  
Confirmation No.: 7483  
Due Date: APRIL 18, 2005  
Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MINIMIZING ALIEN CROSSTALK BETWEEN CONNECTORS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 April 18, 2005.

By:

  
Name: Kristine A. Wacek

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

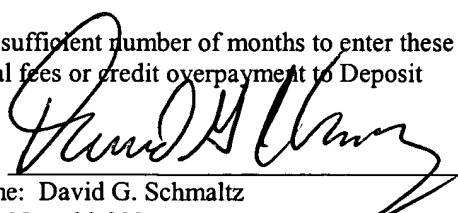
We are transmitting herewith the attached:

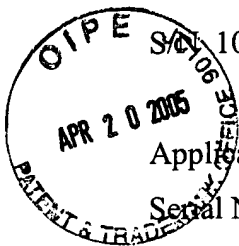
- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Request for Extension of Time for two months and fee of \$450.00
- ☒ Response to Restriction Requirement
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:

  
Name: David G. Schmaltz  
Reg. No.: 39,828  
DSchmaltz:AS:PLSkaw



Serial No.: 10/783,529

PATENT

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Name: Kristine A. Wacek

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.